

EYES ONLY

8 December 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: DIA Requests for Additional TALENT  
and KEYHOLE Billets

1. As you know, I have been holding these clearances for some time. First of all, to get the DIA answer to the questions in my cable and next because I knew that [REDACTED] was fighting a battle to hold down the number of clearances and in particular to keep the KH within reason. Furthermore, as no one was pushing even for those I held since August, it did not appear to me that the need was tremendous.

2. Obviously a lot of work went into [REDACTED] reply but questions remain. It seems to me for instance that in a number of areas TALENT photography is probably what is needed and this can be easily decontrolled so no additional TALENT<sup>or KH</sup> clearances are involved. [REDACTED] said he had tried to sell this without success. In fact he has told me in complete confidence and I would appreciate this being retained as a confidence between us, that last week he finally got slapped down in his attempt to hold the line on clearances. He said that the present feeling of higher authorities in the Pentagon is that KH is pretty much like anything else and there is no reason for an increasing number of persons<sup>not</sup> to enjoy access to it.

3. Bagley feels and I concur in his feeling that until we get a USIB decision on the question of increased release of KH to United States officials we cannot reach any sensible conclusion on the question of clearances. If USIB stiffens its line and higher authority decides to continue to attempt maximum protection of the satellite photographic reconnaissance capability, we can make a stand on many of these clearances. However, with relaxation we must reach a decision as to what this means. If it means that the

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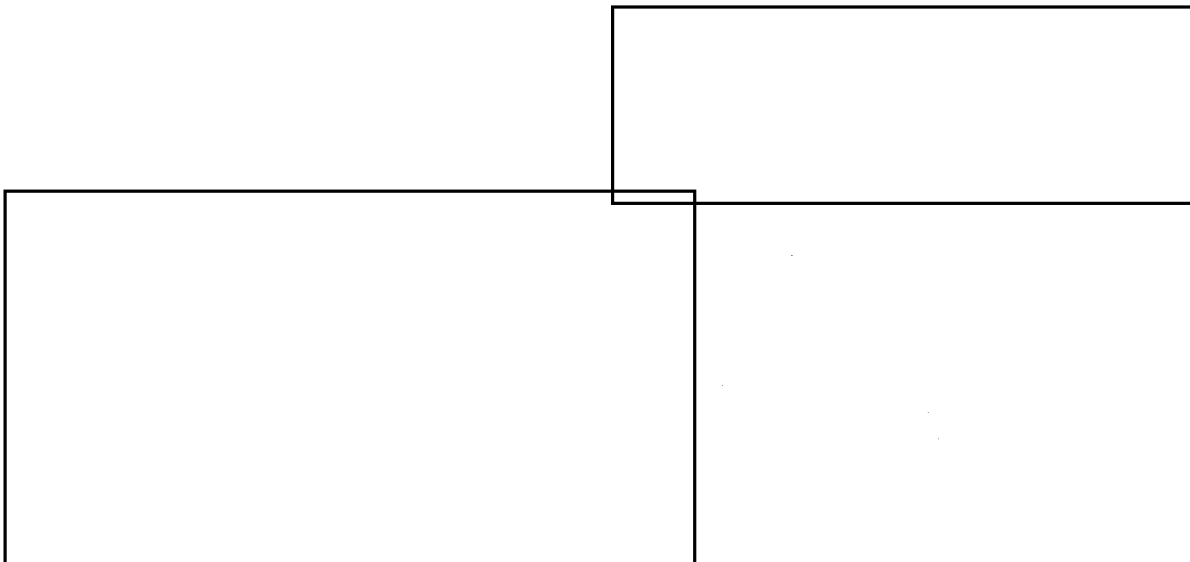
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product is <sup>more</sup> generally made available at the TOP SECRET or SECRET level, the need for clearances diminishes. It will at least require a careful reevaluation because a decision must then be made as to whether to make KH available as such to certain Commanders and their staffs who might need it for planning purposes or whether to be so comprehensive in removing the KH identification that there is no need for such action.

4. A question obviously implied in the cable which I have often expressed to Bagley in person is how one rationalizes continuing requests for clearances for persons responsible for sanitization on the one hand and a constant stream of requests for clearances for planners, etc., who will need KH for their jobs on the other.

5. I would appreciate your giving this some thought and me some specific guidance as to what line you prefer to pursue.



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